

News

News / [University to Host 55th Annual Christmas on Campus](#)



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TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2018

University to Host 55th Annual Christmas on Campus

University of Dayton students will transform the campus into a holiday playland for local children during the 55th annual Christmas on Campus Friday, Dec. 7.

More than 1,000 Dayton Public Schools students are expected to attend. Each child will be paired with a UD undergraduate for crafts, a carnival, performances and more.

“The theme this year is ‘One Night, One Community,’” said senior Ryan O’Hara, a member of the planning committee. “The theme fits with the University’s Marianist identity and reflects how this event brings University of Dayton students and members of the Dayton community together to celebrate a time of year that is filled with joy. It is a wonderful a chance to spend time with the first and second graders that come to campus. Christmas On Campus truly is a glorious time to be a Dayton Flyer.”

Started in 1963 as a way for students to celebrate the holiday before heading home for winter break, Christmas on Campus has evolved into what is believed to be one of the nation’s largest single-day, on-campus community service events. Nearly three-quarters of the undergraduate student body is involved in some way.

All activities are free and open to the public.

The schoolchildren will arrive in C Lot, off Evanston Avenue near the RecPlex, between 5 and 5:30 p.m.

The opening ceremony, live Nativity, tree lighting and Santa's arrival are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in Humanities Plaza. Other activities, including a train display, cardboard maze and obstacle course, will take place in the Science Center, Jesse Phillips Humanities Center, RecPlex, Bookstore and Kennedy Union.

Schoolchildren will return to their buses by 8 p.m. The Mass of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will begin at 9:30 p.m. at the University's Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

Photos and messages can be shared on social media during the event through the Facebook page “Christmas on Campus” or the Twitter handle @COCUD. More information is available [online](#).

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300 College Park
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45469
937-229-1000

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